

Appl. No. : 10/691,695
Amdt. dated July 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed April 12, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph [0006]:

[0006] The present invention is an article which greatly improves the accuracy of administering home medication with a hypodermic syringe. An apparatus and method are provided whereby greatly improved interchangeable syringe guides are set forth, achieving a significant comfort and medical improvement for many individuals. The article is comprised of a holder for a syringe bottle and a guide for insertion of the syringe into the bottle top. The apparatus include a series of interchangeable syringe guides corresponding to different sizes of syringes for differing doses of medication or types of medication. In another alternative, the apparatus may include a single syringe anchoring block with multiple size guides integrated therein.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph [0009]:

[0009] Another group of individuals who are greatly challenged in home hypodermic treatment are the blind and those suffering from poor eyesight. Not only does lining up the needle and bottle present a challenge, but also the identification of how much medication is being loaded in the syringe is problematic. The present invention assists in lining up the syringe with the medicine vial and the insertion of the syringe as well as identification of markings and location of the plunger. In addition to hypodermic syringes, the present invention can be used

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with other types of syringes such as those customarily used in insulin pumps.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph [0020]:

[0020] The present invention is an apparatus to aid in the filling of syringes. It is particularly helpful for syringes used for home administered hypodermic shots by persons having poor eyesight or who have trouble with motor control. The apparatus can accommodate more than one size of syringe and more than one size of medicine vial. The apparatus can even accommodate syringes used in insulin pumps and other types of syringes.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph [0034]:

[0034] FIG. 1 illustrates the preferred embodiment of a syringe loading article with lid containing a medicine vial and changeable ~~guide~~ guides and associated syringes.

Please insert the following paragraphs after paragraph [0041] and before paragraph [0042].

[0041.1] FIGS. 13 shows the embodiment of Figure 1 with a particular changeable syringe guide engaged with the vial holder and a syringe inserted.

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[0041,2] FIGS. 14 shows the vial holder of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 13 from a different angle.

Please cancel the previous insertion for paragraph [0042] and in its stead replace it with the following amended paragraph [0042]:

[0042] The following discussion illustrates only some of the possible configurations claimed in this invention and should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the claims. Fig. 1 shows the preferred embodiment of the syringe loading system, or apparatus, (10) which assists in guiding ~~a syringe (12)~~ syringes (12 & 12b) into a medicine vial (14). The syringe guide loading system (10) ~~consist~~ consists of three major components, a sectioned box (16), which holds the medicine vial (14), a changeable syringe guide member (18) members (18 & 18b) which accommodate syringes (12 & 12b) and fit into section box (16) holding vial (14), and a lid (24) which may cover both medicine vial (14) and a syringe guide (18 or 18b) in place in sectioned box (16). Interchangeable syringe guide members (18a & 18b) fit into cavity (28). The changeable syringe guide ~~member (18) has an aperture~~ members (18 & 18b) have apertures through it which is are slightly larger than the barrel ~~diameter of a syringe (12)~~ diameters of the respective syringes (22 & 22b) for which the guides (18 & 18b) are intended. A syringe ~~(12)~~ is inserted through this aperture to accurately guide it to a medicine vial (14) held by sectioned box (16). The smaller diameter syringe (12) in Fig. 1 is a more typical syringe, while the larger diameter syringe (12b) in Fig. 1 is of a type which may be used in insulin pumps, and shows the

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versatility of the system and its ability to accommodate different types of syringes that have different shapes, etc. While only two interchangeable syringe guides (18 & 18b) are shown in Fig. 1, it is envisioned that an interchangeable guide would be available for each size and type of syringe, the interchangeable syringe guide serving as an adaptor between the syringe and vial holder. The changeable syringe guide member (18) and the lid (24) are made of suitable material to allow the syringe (12) to be observed through the lid (24) and changeable syringe guide member (18) with the lid (24) having its surface (26) shaped so as to provide a magnifying effect so that the readings on the syringe (12) are more easily seen. This magnifying effect in the lid (24) would also provide better viewing of the vial (14). On the changeable syringe guide member (18) are syringe retainers (20) which keep the syringe (12) engaged in the vial (14) while filling the syringe (12).

Please cancel the previous two paragraph insertions between paragraph [0042] and paragraph [0043] and in their stead replace them with the following amended paragraphs [0042.1], [0042.2], and [0042.3]:

[0042.1] The changeable syringe guide member (18 & 18b) and the lid (24) are made of suitable material to allow the syringes (12 & 12b) to be observed through the lid (24) and changeable syringe guide members (18 & 18b) with the lid (24) having its surface (26) shaped so as to provide a magnifying effect so that the readings on the syringes (12 & 12b) are more easily seen. This magnifying effect in the lid (24) would also provide better viewing of the vial (14). On the changeable syringe guide members (18 & 18b) are syringe retainers (20 and 20b) which

keep the syringes (12 & 12b) engaged in the vial (14) while filling the syringes (12 & 12b).

[0042.2] Fig. 13 shows a syringe guide member (18) coupled with the sectioned box (16).

A syringe (12) is inserted through syringe guide member (18) to the medicine vial (14) held in the sectioned box (16). The portion of sectioned box (16) holding medicine vial (14) is sized large enough to accommodate several sizes of medicine vials. This can be seen by the space around medicine vial (14) in Fig. 13, particularly at its end. The changeable syringe guide member (18) and the lid (24) are made of suitable material to allow the syringe (12) to be observed through the lid (24) and changeable syringe guide member (18) with the lid (24) having its surface (26) shaped so as to provide a magnifying effect so that the readings on the syringe (12) are more easily seen. This magnifying effect in the lid (24) would also provide better viewing of the vial (14). On the changeable syringe guide member (18) are syringe retainers (20) which retain the syringe (12) engaged in the vial (14) while filling the syringe (12).

[0042.3] Fig. 14 shows the syringe loading system, or apparatus, (10) from a different angle than that of Fig. 1. In Fig. 14, additional restraints around the neck of medicine vial (14) are visible. Other means known in the art may also be used to maintain the position of vial (14) within the box holding it.

Please insert the following paragraphs after paragraph [0049] and before paragraph [0050].

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[0049.1] Referring now to Figures 2, 5, and 13, it can be seen that excess space is available in the compartments holding the medicine vial. The generic box shape of the compartments allows several sizes of medicine vials to be used with the apparatus. This further increases the utility of the apparatus.